

Application No. 10/806,589
Amendment dated July 19, 2005
Reply to Office Action of April 25, 2005

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed April 25, 2005 has been carefully considered by Applicant. Reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing claim amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1 - 5 and 8 - 10 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Lof U.S. Patent No. 5,543,774. Claims 6, 7, 11 and 12 have been rejected under U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lof '774 in view of Breece U.S. Patent No. 4,616,286.

By the present Amendment, independent claims 1 and 8 are amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the present invention and to render the same allowable over the applied references.

In general, the present invention relates to a fuse arrangement in which a conductive track on a circuit board has a fuse region of reduced width, the fuse region being shaped to form a sharp deviation to current flow. No other sharp deviations are present between the fuse region and the associated terminal region. As a consequence, in the event of an overload, for example due to a lightening strike, the fuse arrangement will "blow" at the location of the deviation in the fuse region and not elsewhere. If a deviation were present between the terminal region and the fuse region, the fuse arrangement may "blow" at that point. The absence of sharp deviations between the terminal region and the fuse region is now more clearly set out in presently amended claims 1 and 8.

The corresponding structure taught in Lof '774, i.e. the entire length of the track from the terminal to the fuse region, includes several deviations and as such, does not anticipate or render obvious claims 1 and 8. Lof '774 also fails to teach or suggest the advantages of the presently claimed arrangement.

The shortcomings of Lof '774 are not fulfilled by Breece '286, or any other prior art currently of record.

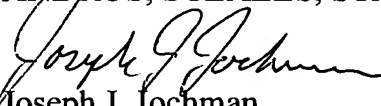
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Claims 2 - 7 and 9 - 12 depend directly or indirectly from claims 1 or 8 and as such are believed allowable for the reasons stated above, as well as the subject matter recited therein.

The present application is thus believed in condition for allowance with claims 1 - 12. Such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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